



WELLS WILDLIFE AREA 2009 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Land Management Summary

This is an update to the 2006 Wells Wildlife Area Management Plan http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/ that provides management direction for the 8,170 acre Wells Wildlife Area including six separate land management units: West Foster Creek (1,050 acres), Indian Dan Canyon (4,412 acres), Central Ferry Canyon (1,908 acres), Bridgeport Bar (450 acres), Washburn Island [about 250 acres – Douglas County Public Utility District (PUD) owned] and Okanogan River Units (100 acres+). The plan identifies needs and guides activities on the area based on the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Mission of “Sound Stewardship of Fish and Wildlife” and its underlying statewide



goals and objectives as they apply to local conditions. Plans are updated annually as habitat and species conditions change, as new regulations and scientific knowledge develop, as public issues and concerns evolve, and as administration of wildlife areas change. This management plan update also includes 2008 accomplishments and performance measures for 2009.

Bridgeport Bar Unit – west portion looking east

WDFW planted most of the shrubs and trees shown above.

Updates/Changes

WDFW received a grant from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program to restore 70 acres of shrub-steppe habitat in old agricultural fields primarily on the West Foster Creek Unit.

New Issues: None

Status Report of 2008 Performance Measures

Key performance measures are identified each year to monitor progress and identify any issues that might interfere with planned priority activities. This information will be used to delete, add or modify priority strategies for 2009.

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2008 Performance Measure	Status of Performance Measure *	Explanation of Progress/ 2008 Related Activity/ Comments
Capture and band 150+/- California quail on adjacent un-hunted sites following the hunting season and relocate on the Indian Dan Unit.	Captured and banded 135 California quail and relocated these primarily on the Indian Dan Unit (93). Ten were released on the Bridgeport Bar Unit and 32 on the West Foster Creek Unit	Will continue trapping and releasing quail in 2009.
Survey hunting related public use through the hunter registration program to document use and wildlife population trends.	Completed. Hunting pressure and success was generally down from 2007.	Continued in 2009
Grow 75 acres of irrigated grain on Bridgeport Bar and Washburn Island (wheat, barley, corn, millet etc.) and 30 acres of dryland wheat on the Indian Dan and West Foster Creek Units.	Grew 113 acres of irrigated wheat and 20 acres of corn on Bridgeport Bar and Washburn Island. Grew 21 acres of dryland wheat on the Indian Dan and West Foster Creek Unit.	Continued in 2009
Plant about 1,000 shrubs and trees. Irrigate and maintain 60 acres of woody plantings.	Irrigated and maintained 60 acres of woody plantings. Planted 1,300 shrub and tree seedlings and about 1,000 willow cuttings.	Continue in 2009
Fill and maintain 24 bird feeders located throughout the area.	Completed	Continued in 2009
Maintain 11 gallinaceous guzzlers and 6 developed springs on the Indian Dan, Central Ferry and West Foster Creek Units as needed.	Not needed	Not needed at this time. Will inspect these developments and maintain them as needed.
Service and maintain about 100 nest boxes and 50 goose nest structures on and in the vicinity of Wells Pool including twenty islands, the Bridgeport Bar, Okanogan River and Washburn Units.	Completed	Continued in 2009

Maintain 3 deer exclosures surrounding West Foster Creek shrub and tree plantings.	Completed	Continued in 2009
Release about 3,000 bio control agents to control knapweed, purple loosestrife and Dalmatian toadflax primarily in the West Foster and Central Ferry Canyon units.	Not completed	Sites for planned releases were inspected and had established populations of bio control agents. These and additional sites will be surveyed in the spring of 2009 and insects released as needed.
Mow about 25 acres of weeds on the West Foster Creek Unit and treat 85 acres of weeds with herbicides throughout the wildlife area.	Chemically treated 20 acres of diffuse knapweed, 1 acre of leafy spurge, 2 acres of puncture vine, 47 acres of grass, 4 acres of Dalmatian toadflax, and 36 acres of Canadian thistle. Mowed about 36 acres of Canadian thistle.	Continued in 2009
Maintain one mile of firebreaks on the West Foster Creek Unit and two miles on Bridgeport Bar.	Completed	Continued in 2009
Maintain 13 hunter registration booths, one office building, a shop and storage facilities. Maintain vehicles and equipment.	Completed	Continued in 2009
Construct one equipment shelter.	Not Completed	Funding was not adequate. Will construct this shelter if and when funding is available.
Survey goose nesting on 20 islands and wetlands adjacent to Wells Pool. Coordinate with volunteer to survey kestrel and wood duck nesting.	Completed: The estimated Wells Pool gosling production in 2008 was 376. Island nesting near Bridgeport Bar was lacking due to raccoon predation.	Continued in 2009
Conduct fall wildlife population surveys on the West Foster Creek and Central Ferry Unit using other WDFW staff and volunteers. Extent of survey is dependent on volunteer availability.	Completed	Continue in 2009

Cultivate and seed 20 to 30 acres on Bridgeport Bar to permanent cover.	Seeded 28 acres of perennial herbaceous cover on Bridgeport Bar	
Establish and irrigate about 50 acres of permanent nesting cover on Washburn Island.	Completed. Seeded 11 acres with a mix of several grasses and alfalfa. Irrigated this and the rest of the 50 acres.	Will evaluate seeding and need for additional seeding in 2009.
Work with the Bureau of Land Management and volunteers to survey bald eagle winter roosts and American white pelican and double crested cormorant using Wells Pool.	Completed. Volunteers counted pelicans and cormorants on Wells Pool. BLM, Volunteers and WDFW personnel surveyed bald eagle roosts.	Continued in 2009
Write a fire management plan including post-fire treatment of affected site(s).	Partially completed	Planned for completion in 2009
Experiment with forage kochia plantings in firebreaks.	Not completed	Planned for 2009

* The 2008 Wells Wildlife Mitigation annual report, available from the Douglas County PUD web site in July 2009 describes the 2008 Wells Wildlife Area program in more detail (http://relicensing.douglaspud.org/background/annual_reports/annual_wildlife_mitigation.asp).

New Strategies

The wildlife area plan identifies many strategies or activities to address the agency's strategic plan goals and objectives, why the area was purchased, habitat conditions, species presence, and public issues and concerns. No new strategies were identified.

2009 Performance Measures

Performance measures for the Wells Wildlife Area are listed below. Accomplishments and progress toward desired outcomes will be monitored and evaluated annually.

1. Capture and band ~100-150 California quail off the wildlife area following the hunting season and relocate these on the Indian Dan and other Units as needed.
2. Survey hunting related public use through the hunter registration program on the Indian Dan, West Foster Creek, Central Ferry, Washburn Island and Bridgeport Bar Units to document hunting use and wildlife population trends.
3. Grow approximately 75 acres of irrigated grain on Bridgeport Bar and Washburn Island (wheat, barley, corn, millet etc.) and 30 acres of dryland wheat on the Indian Dan and West Foster Creek Units.
4. Maintain and irrigate about 50 acres of permanent nesting cover on Washburn Island. Evaluate 2008 seeding and need for additional seeding.
5. Plant about shrubs and trees as needed. Irrigate and maintain 60 acres of woody plantings.

6. Fill and maintain 24 bird feeders located throughout the area.
7. Maintain 11 gallinaceous guzzlers and 6 developed springs on the Indian Dan, Central Ferry and West Foster Creek Units as needed.
8. Service, repair, and maintain about 100 nest boxes and 50 goose nest structures on and in the vicinity of Wells Pool including twenty islands, the Bridgeport Bar, Okanogan River and Washburn Units. Replace nest structures and boxes as needed. Survey and map wood duck boxes.
9. Maintain 3 deer exclosures surrounding West Foster Creek shrub and tree plantings.
10. Release bio-control agents as needed to control knapweed, purple loosestrife and/or Dalmatian toadflax primarily in the West Foster and Central Ferry Canyon units.
11. Mow and treat weeds throughout the wildlife area as needed.
12. Maintain one mile of firebreaks on the West Foster Creek Unit and two miles on Bridgeport Bar.
13. Maintain 13 hunter registration booths, one office building, a shop and storage facilities. Maintain vehicles and equipment.
14. Survey goose nesting on and adjacent to Wells Pool (Lake Pateros). Coordinate with volunteers to survey kestrel and wood duck nesting.
15. Conduct fall wildlife population surveys on the Bridgeport Bar and Indian Dan Units using other WDFW staff and volunteers. Extent of survey is dependent on volunteer availability.
16. Cultivate about 10 acres on Bridgeport Bar to be planted to permanent cover in the spring of 2009.
17. Work with the Bureau of Land Management and volunteers to survey bald eagle winter roosts and American white pelican and double crested cormorant using Wells Pool.
18. Work with volunteers to increase monitoring of non-game species on the area. Emphasis will be placed on monitoring use of restored sites.
19. Experiment with forage kochia in firebreaks.
20. Prepare for restoration of about 70 acres of land on the West Foster Creek and Bridgeport Bar Units (RCO grant).

Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) Input:

The draft management plan update was mailed to the CAG for comment. No comments were received. Over time attendance at meetings has decreased substantially. Only two members attended the last meeting/field trip that was scheduled.

Wells, Chelan and Sagebrush Flat Wildlife Areas Citizens Advisory Group - 2009

Jim McGee	Public Utilities District No. 1 of Douglas County
Von Pope	Public Utilities District No. 1 of Chelan County
Bill Stegeman	Wenatchee Sportsmen's Association
Bob Fischer	US Army Corp of Engineers – Chief Joseph Dam/ Adjacent Landowner /Recreationist
Tim Behne	Adjacent Landowner/Cattleman/Wheat Grower/Foster Creek Conservation District

John Musser	Wildlife Biologist, US Bureau of Land Management
Steve Wetzel	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Mary Hunt	Douglas County Commissioner
Vacant	Chelan County Weed Board
Vacant	North Central Washington Audubon Society
Vacant	The Nature Conservancy
Neal Hedges	Chelan - Douglas Land Trust
Mallory Lenz	U.S. Forest Service
Bob Stoll	Adjacent Landowner and Member of Lands Management Advisory Council

Want to see the full plan?

Go to -

http://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/management_plans/

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